

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A certification authority generates certificates in response to respective certification requests. The certification authority generally includes a computer that is bootable from a removable medium and a removable medium. The removable medium includes a machine readable medium having encoded thereon an operating system module configured to enable the computer to boot from the removable medium and a certificate generation module configured to, after the computer has been booted, control the computer to facilitate the generation of at least one certificate in response to an associated certificate request, the certification authority module being configured to provide that the computer not be remotely controlled during a certificate generation session.